



# YESHIVA OF MINNEAPOLIS news

TISHREI 5777 | Fall 2016

## Our Mission

Jewish education is key to our survival as a people, creating a link in the chain of our great nation.

We instill within our students the timeless values of the Torah and a lifelong love for learning.

YESHIVA OF MINNEAPOLIS  
**news**

is a publication of the  
Yeshiva of Minneapolis  
3115 Ottawa Avenue South  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416  
651-356-9605

### dean

Rabbi Shlomo Kutoff  
yeshivaofminneapolis@gmail.com

### general studies director

Collin Katainen  
collin.katainen@hotmail.com

[www.yofm.org](http://www.yofm.org)

We are happy to introduce the first issue of YESHIVA OF MINNEAPOLIS news, a quarterly newsletter sent to families, friends and supporters to inform, educate and enlighten you about what's happening at the Yeshiva of Minneapolis. We hope you will take time to read through this newsletter to see the exciting things that are going on.

## Message from the Dean



As the Yeshiva begins its fifth year, it is amazing to look back and see how things have grown and developed.

When we started in August of 2012, we had seven local Bachurim (students), one Rebbi and myself in the small Bais Medrash (study hall). We had a start-up General Studies Program run by Mr. Denny Hartman. Baruch Hashem (thank G-d), those boys began to develop and word of an amazing Rebbi and atmosphere began to spread. Fast forward five years and we now have 42 Bachurim, four Rabbeim and three other Rabbeim to come help tutor our Bachurim. We have also developed an excellent general studies program under the guidance of our current General Studies Director, Mr. Collin Katainen. We moved upstairs into a full size Bais Medrash with high ceilings and gorgeous stained glass windows that gives you the feeling that you are really in a special place.

We now also house Bachurim in our new dorms which has room for up to 50 students. We have about 22 Local Minneapolis/St. Paul Bachurim and 20 from out of town ranging 10 cities from New York and Lakewood to Dallas and Houston.

The Yeshiva has developed a name for being a warm and loving environment and a place where each Bachur (student) can grow at his own pace and on his own level.

Each one of our Rabbeim leaves his own personal stamp on each of our Bachurim that will help guide them through the challenges and stages of life. The most important thing we strive for is to help each Bachur walk out of Yeshiva with a love for Torah and Yiddeshkeit (Judaism).



Rabbi Shlomo Kutoff  
Rosh HaYeshiva  
Dean, Yeshiva of Minneapolis



## 4th Annual Excellence in Education Golf Tournament RAISES \$65,000

It was a beautiful summer day on Monday, August 22nd, when 150 guests gathered at Oak Ridge Country Club in Minnetonka, MN, for the Yeshiva of Minneapolis' 4th Annual *Excellence in Education Golf Tournament*. Attendees enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by Laurie Jaffa and Chashi Spar. Afterwards, 112 golfers took to the course for a golf game that included prizes throughout the tournament. The Mall of America team consisting of Danielle Dewald, Al Hines, Brian Spielman, and Andrew Stokke won first place. With the help of 36 sponsors, the Yeshiva raised \$65,000 to support the school. These much needed dollars go towards the purchase of text books, whiteboards, desks, lockers, sporting equipment and so much more.

### Thank you to our generous sponsors:

**Corporate Sponsors:** Gopher Resource, Mall of America. **Platinum Sponsor:** Langer Construction. **Gold Sponsors:** Fiterman Family Foundation, Kaas Wilson Architects, Meadow Ridge Senior Living, Wells Fargo. **Silver Sponsors:** Great Northern Granite, Stephen Litman, Paster Properties, Pergola Management, Quality Metals, Oscar & Aviva Rosenberg, Tamar Fink, Stinson Leonard Street. **Copper Sponsors:** Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Bremer Bank, Bremer Insurance, Circuit Sport, Norwest Equity Partners, US Bank. **Hole Sponsors:** Brad Birnberg and Stacy Pinck & Family, Edina Realty, ENT Specialty Care/Khabie Family, Harold and Cindi Goldfine, Herzog Wine Cellars, Joppa Learning System, The Laundry Room, Makor Solutions, Ron Mandelbaum/Noble Conservation Solutions, Marquette Asset Management, The Law Office of Daniel J. Spiegel, Tilsner Carton Company, Top 10 Liquors, St. Louis Park/Jill and Jon Halper, In Honor of Yeshiva of Minneapolis Staff. **Drink Cart Sponsor:** Monarch Healthcare Management.



2016 YESHIVA				
5A	A. HINES B. SPIELMAN	A. STOKKE D. DEWALD	63	1 <sup>ST</sup>
9B	S. DONALDSON B. GRAYBOW	T. WHALEY B. PARKER	63	2 <sup>ND</sup>
6B	T. TALBOT B. GOTTLIEB	B. KARON D. GANTMAN	63	
17B	J. LEGUM S. SPAU	E. JAFFA S. MILLER	65	
16A	H. PASTER M. HALBERG	C. SHAW D. ERHARDT	65	

### Father/Son program fosters dialogue between the generations



Ron Mandelbaum studying with his sons, Avi (bottom right) and Eli

On a typical Sunday night, you'll find Ron Mandelbaum at the Yeshiva of Minneapolis learning with his sons, Avi, a senior, and Eli, a sophomore, as part of the father/son program created by Rabbi Shlomo Kutoff, Dean of the Yeshiva. Fathers and sons gather together for a 45 minute program that is meant to open up meaningful conversations.

"There's a tremendous energy and enthusiasm when everyone is together," said Ron Mandelbaum. "That burst of learning is inspiring."

From 8:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., a student from the senior class provides a recap of the previous week's lessons. For the remaining 15 minutes, fathers and sons have an opportunity to learn Mussar (ethics) together, by discussing a topic of mutual choice. Students from out

of town learn with their fathers by phone or are matched with a local community member.

"The goal is to open up conversations in families to grow together in all different areas," said Rabbi Kutoff. For Avi Mandelbaum, the program offers many rewards. "Presenting to a group has helped me with my organization and public speaking skills," said Avi. "But mostly, it's nice to spend time with my dad and show him this is what I'm learning."

Ron agrees that time together is very special. "Aside from Shabbos, this is the only set time when I know I and they will be available together and what better way to spend the time than to do some Torah learning," said Ron.

## The Wenick Family

## Yeshiva of Minneapolis sees 50% increase in enrollment

The Yeshiva of Minneapolis opened its doors in 2012 with a total of seven students from the Twin Cities area. Over the last four years, enrollment has continued to grow as students from across North America have learned about the exceptional education the Yeshiva provides in both Judaic and general studies.

Last year, enrollment reached 29, with students coming from the Twin Cities as well as 10 other cities from around the country. This fall, the school welcomed 19 newcomers. With enrollment now at 42, a 50% increase over last year, the Yeshiva has not only increased its numbers but has also expanded its coverage with students coming from Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Far Rockaway, Houston, Lakewood, Los Angeles, Montreal, New York, and St. Louis.

### Welcome to the following new students:

#### 9TH GRADE

Yoni Afenzer  
*St. Louis Park, Minnesota*

Yosef Asa  
*Atlanta, Georgia*

Eliyahu Barshteyn  
*St. Louis Park, Minnesota*

Chanoch Borenstein  
*St. Louis Park, Minnesota*

Nadav Chodos  
*St. Louis Park, Minnesota*

Yaakov David  
*St. Louis, Missouri*

Ravi Farber  
*Minnetonka, Minnesota*

Moshe Fredman  
*St. Louis Park, Minnesota*

Aharon Glazer  
*Baltimore, Maryland*

Meyer Goldberger  
*St. Louis Park, Minnesota*

Moshe Greenberg,  
*St. Louis Park, Minnesota*

Daniel Levin  
*St. Louis Park, Minnesota*

Shmueli Lome  
*Chicago, Illinois*

Sol Pergament  
*Minnetonka, Minnesota*

Nachum Polter  
*Far Rockaway, New York*

Sammy Sutkin  
*Dallas, Texas*

#### 10TH GRADE

Alexander Gluck  
*Chicago, Illinois*

Yisrael Polatsek  
*Houston, Texas*

Eliyahu Yakubovsky  
*Lakewood, New Jersey*



The Wenick Family (L to R): Avigail 13, Sultzy 10, Yonit, Kayla 2, Shulamis 8, Leo and Eli 17

17-year-old, Eli Wenick, who is from Montreal, Canada, is a senior at the Yeshiva of Minneapolis. Why did a teenager travel so far from home to attend high school in Minnesota? “We were looking for a place where you are not just a number but rather someone valued and appreciated,” said Leo Wenick, Eli’s dad. “The dedication, love and concern from Rabbi Kutoff made us feel confident in sending Eli to the Yeshiva of Minneapolis.”

Eli, the oldest of five children, has been at the Yeshiva since 2013 when he came to the school as a 9th grader. His dad, Leo, a Freight Broker and his mom, Yonit, a wig manufacturer, are also parents to Avigail 13, Sultzy 10, Shulamis 8, and Kayla 2. They are a family that Yonit describes as “loving, fun and close.”

Yonit, who was born in Mexico City, Mexico, moved to New York when she was six years old and attended a local Yeshiva through high school. Leo, who grew up in Montreal, also attended a Yeshiva through high school and then traveled to Israel to continue his studies. A mutual friend introduced the couple who married and lived briefly in Israel, where Eli was born. When Eli was five months old, the Wenicks returned to Montreal to raise their growing family.

Eli, who enjoys sports and the outdoors, has excelled at the Yeshiva in both his Judaic and general studies. “I’m not the same person I was before coming to this school,” said Eli. “I wasn’t that interested in learning and used to have a hard time focusing. That has now changed. The teachers at the Yeshiva are great and work with you at your own pace, making sure you understand. I enjoy learning and it has given me a real sense of accomplishment.”

The Wenicks, who know the value of a Yeshiva education, are appreciative of what is has provided their son. “The fact that [Rabbi Kutoff] would do anything to help the boys succeed and reach their potential is something that never ceases to amaze us,” said Leo.

**“The fact that [Rabbi Kutoff] would do anything to help the boys succeed and reach their potential is something that never ceases to amaze us.”**





**YESHIVA OF MINNEAPOLIS**  
3115 Ottawa Avenue South  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

## What Are They Saying About the Yeshiva of Minneapolis?

“I had a **tremendous** desire to give over the **love** and **warmth** that was given to me by my teachers and I wanted to pass that on to the **next generations.**”

*Rabbi Shlomo Kutoff, Dean*

“When I came here, everyone was so **warm** to me. It felt like a **family.**”

*Reuven Roberts, student*

“What separates the **Yeshiva of Minneapolis** from other options is the tremendous love and care and **individual attention** the students receive.”

*Ron Mandelbaum, parent*

“I try to **create** an environment where the students can take the information they are **learning** and apply it to their **lives** going forward.”

*Collin Katainen, General Studies Director*

